

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9566

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 3495

LIMDIS

FOR M - DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY MOOSE; M/DG - DIRECTOR GENERAL
LAISE; AND AF - ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, SG

SUBJ: DAKAR POST CLASSIFICATION

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE CHANGE OF AMBASSADOR IN
NEAR FUTURE, MISSION HAS REVIEWED FACTORS AFFECTING POST
CLASSIFICATION, AS PROVIDED FOR BY 2 FAM 260. STUDY PREPARED
BY MISSION ON IMPORTANCE OF U.S. OBJECTIVES AND COUNTRY
SITUATION BEING FORWARDED IMMEDIATELY BY AIRGRAM. OUR
CONCLUSION IS THAT DAKAR IS BOTH STRATEGIC AXIS OF INTER-
NATIONAL AIR AND SEA ROUTES AND A MAJOR CENTER OF DIPLOMATIC
ACTIVITY ON AFRICAN CONTINENT, WITH COMMENSURATE SIGNIFICANCE
FOR AMERICAN INTERESTS. DAKAR REMAINS CULTURAL AND POLITICAL
CAPITAL OF FRANCOPHONE AFRICA AND HAS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN
SAHEL REGION, WHICH IS FOCAL POINT OF WHAT IS PROBABLY
MOST SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKING ON
CONTINENT. MORE THAN 80 FOREIGN COUNTRIES, INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND LIBERATION GROUPS MAINTAIN RESIDENT MISSIONS
IN DAKAR. IN LITTLE MORE THAN TWO YEARS, SENEGALESE HEAD
OF STATE HAS MADE CLOSE TO 50 VISITS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES,
WHILE SOME 25 HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT HAVE VISITED
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SENEGAL. IN SAME PERIOD, MAJOR INTERNATIONAL GATHERINGS IN
DAKAR WITH IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. INTERESTS HAVE
INCLUDED DAKAR COMMODITIES CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE ON
NAMIBIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AFRO-ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS'
MEETING AND FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT.

2. PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S STATURE AS AFRICAN ELDER STATESMAN,

HIS PERIPATETIC PERSONAL DIPLOMACY AND LONG ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIPS WITH WORLD POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERS GIVE SENEGAL DEGREE OF INFLUENCE FAR EXCEEDING THAT JUSTIFIED BY ITS NATURAL RESOURCES OR PHYSICAL STRENGTH. BUT SENEGAL'S INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA DOES NOT DERIVE FROM SENGHOR ALONE. SENEGALESE CURRENTLY SERVE AS DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, CHAIRMAN OF GROUP OF 77 IN LAW OF THE SEA NEGOTIATIONS AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, AND SIT ON WORLD COURT AND UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; TO WHICH SENEGALES SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE KEBE MBAYE WAS JUST RE-ELECTED.

3. U.S. POLICIES TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS, SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRIKE A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMONG SENEGALESE, WHOSE INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE PLACES THEM IN A POSITION TO HELP GAIN WIDENED ACCEPTANCE FOR AMERICAN INITIATIVES. CONVERGENCE OF SENEGALESE AND U.S. INTERESTS REFLECTS FACT THAT SENEGAL POSSESSES MIXED ECONOMY, EMERGING MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY, DEEP COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, AND PREFERENCE FOR DIALOGUE AND COMPROMISE AS OPPOSED TO ARMED STRUGGLE.

4. SENGHOR'S 1975 U.S. VISIT AND SUBSEQUENT TRIPS TO DAKAR BY FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER, GOVERNOR SCRANTON, FORMER AID ADMINISTRATOR PARKER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE, CHAIRMAN DIGGS AND SEVERAL LARGE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS HAVE HELPED STIMULATE RAPIDLY GROWING COOPERATION ACROSS SPECTRUM OF RELATIONSHIP. DAKAR'S AID REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
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HAS GREATLY INCREASED IN IMPORTANCE IN PAST TWO YEARS, AND DEFENSE COOPERATION IS ALSO EXPANDING WITH FMS CREDIT TO EQUIP ENGINEER BATTALION FOR CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS. BILATERAL COOPERATION CAN ONLY GROW THROUGH DIALOGUE ALREADY ESTABLISHED BETWEEN SENGHOR AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY VANCE, U.S. COMMITMENT TO LONG-TERM MULTIDONOR SAHEL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AND AMERICAN FASCINATION WITH SENEGAMBIA AREA STIMULATED BY "ROOTS" PHENOMENON (WHICH FOR EMBASSY DAKAR TRANSLATES INTO PLANNED WEEKLY DC-10 CHARTERS OF AMERICAN TOURISTS THIS SUMMER, TO CITE ONE RESULT).

5. RESIDENT IN DAKAR, US AMBASSADOR IS ALSO ACCREDITED TO THE GAMBIA, AND GROWING US DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL INTERESTS IN THAT NEIGHBORING REPUBLIC REQUIRE HIS PERSONAL OVERSIGHT AND INCREASINGLY FREQUENT VISITS. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR NEIGHBORING POSTS OF BISSAU, BANJUL, NOUAKCHOTT AND, TO LESSER EXTENT, BAMAKO ARE ALSO EXPANDING RAPIDLY.

6. BREADTH OF SENEGALESE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AND OF U.S.

PROGRAMS IN SENEGAL TRANSLATES DIRECTLY INTO REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES IMPOSED ON MISSION; WITH DAKAR'S MUCH SMALLER STAFF, 152 AIRGRAMS WE DISPATCHED IN 1976 WERE ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO OUTPUT OF SUCH POSTS AS LAGOS AND ABIDJAN, WHILE OUR APPROXIMATELY 8,500 CABLES (EXCLUDING MESSAGES TRANSMITTED FOR EMBASSIES BANJUL AND BISSAU) WERE NOT FAR BELOW TOTAL OF ABOUT 10,000 TELEGRAMS FOR SUCH LARGER POSTS AS KINSHASA AND CONTRAST SHARPLY WITH CONAKRY, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH TRANSMITTED ABOUT 2,500 MESSAGES. (DAKAR MRN NUMBERS IN LATE 1976 ALSO SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEEDED THOSE FOR SUCH POSTS AS THE HAGUE AND BELGRADE ON SAME DATES.)

7. AFTER REVIEWING 2 FAM 460 GUIDELINES, MISSION BELIEVES THAT SENEGAL'S SIGNIFICANCE FOR AMERICAN INTERESTS IS SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY URGENT CONSIDERATION OF INCREASING POST'S CLASSIFICATION TO "2" LEVEL. CONVERSELY, WE ARE
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CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISTAKE TO LOWER POST CLASSIFICATION BELOW PRESENT "3" LEVEL. AIRGRAM WHICH WILL BE SENT VIA NEXT CLASSIFIED POUCH CONTAINS EMBASSY'S FULL RATIONALE FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION, SUBSTANTIATED BY APPROPRIATE FACTS AND FIGURES.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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